

REMARKS

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-12 are all the claims pending in the application, and all claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Shoji* (U.S. Patent No. 6,344,652) in view of *Sayed et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,773,832 , “*Sayed*” hereinafter). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim 1 of the present application requires, *inter alia*, a

radiation detecting cassette comprising: ... a cassette main body having a case for housing the solid state radiation detector and the control means; and a portable operating portion for outputting command signals to the control means for operating the solid state radiation detector, formed as a separate unit from the cassette main body.

Clearly, the “portable operating portion” is a portable element of the overall radiation detecting cassette that outputs command signals that control the operation of the solid state radiation detector.

By contrast, the cassette of *Shoji* specifically contemplates local control of data, such as by an operation panel and display disposed at the cassette. This obviates the need for an operator to move back and forth between a console and the cassette to determine operations at the cassette. *Shoji* col. 7, lines 49-50. The Examiner contends that one skilled in the art would be motivated to combine the alleged teachings of the cited references to promote radiation detection at a remote site. However, this appears to be at odds with having the interface localized to the cassette which *Shoji* seeks to achieve. Therefore, Applicant submits that one skilled in the art

would not be motivated to combine the cited references. Moreover, modifications that thwart a principle of operation of a reference do not support prior art rejections.

Further, assuming *arguendo* that the references may be combined, their combination does not teach or suggest all of the required features of claim 1. With regard to the *Shoji* reference, the Examiner concedes that “Shoji does not teach … a portable operating portion for outputting command signals to the control means for operating the solid state radiation detector, formed as a separate unit from the cassette body.” *See Office Action*, p. 3. The Examiner asserts however, that *Sayed* discloses a “portable operating portion substantially as claimed.” In particular, the Examiner points to *Sayed*, col. 7, lines 27-35 and FIG. 2 in support of his position. However, the cited portion of *Sayed* merely discloses a method and apparatus for remotely testing the CCD chip 18a, and associated electronics. This is done using a test pattern. Specifically, *Sayed* states:

[i]n x-ray medical imaging, it would be desirable to be able to verify from some remote location that the CCD chip 18a and the associated electronics 20 are functioning properly. For example, it would be desirable to remotely monitor and detect any possible degradation in the CCD transport performance and amplifier performance with prolonged usage in the x-ray environment.

See *Sayed*, col. 7, lines 27-35 and FIG. 2.

In other words, *Sayed* only discloses a remote unit for testing the performance of a CCD chip and an amplifier. Consequently, *Sayed* fails to teach or suggest a radiation detecting cassette including a portable operating portion which outputs command signals to a control

means for operating a solid state radiation detector, as claim 1 requires. As such, the cited references fail to teach or suggest all of the required features of claim 1.

Therefore Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over *Shoji* in view of *Sayed*. Further, Applicant submits that claims 2-12 are patentable over the cited references at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections of claims 1-12.

II. New Claims

Applicant herein adds new claims 13 and 14.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: March 1, 2006